

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the comments in the Office Action, which has been carefully considered. It is respectfully submitted that all issues raised are traversed, being hereinafter addressed with reference to the relevant headings appearing in the Detailed Action section of the Office Action.

The Applicant has amended the claim set. The Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claim set are fully supported by the originally filed specification.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 2 and 9 for informalities. The Applicant has amended claims 2 and 9 as suggested by the Examiner. The Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claims 2 and 9.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 2, 5 to 6, 8 and 9 as being unpatentable over Schmidt (US Patent No. 6,278,481) in view of Roberts (US Patent No. 5,541,654).

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's conclusion. However, in order to expedite the allowance of the current application, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to specify that the image sensor includes a plurality of sensor columns and that the image capture and processing integrated circuit includes a plurality of analogue signal processors, wherein each analogue signal processor is dedicated to process one or more signals generated by one of the plurality of sensor columns. Support for this amendment can be found in relation to paragraph 5 of page 11 of the specification which refers to analogue signal processors 205, one for each of the columns of the sensor.

The Applicant respectfully submits that there is no teaching or suggestion in Schmidt in view of Roberts of the claim limitation of a plurality of analogue signal processors, wherein each analogue signal processor is dedicated to process one or more signals generated by one of the plurality of sensor columns.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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